



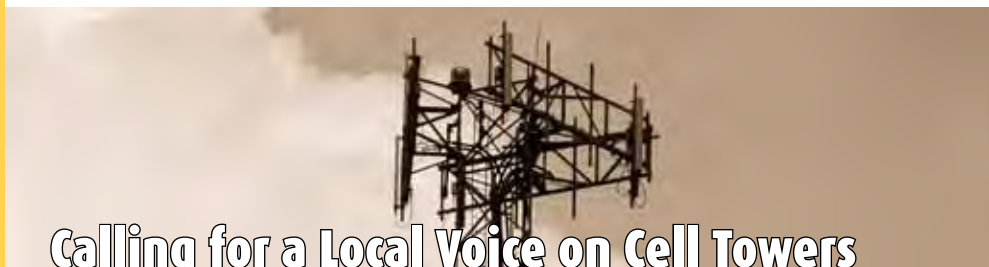
Fighting Fraudulent Foreclosures

The housing crisis and financial deregulation have left many Connecticut homeowners underwater, facing foreclosure by banks that don't even hold the title to their property. I proposed a law this year to prohibit foreclosures without possession of a title, making the banks play by the same rules as the rest of us. We need to do all we can to make sure that people losing their homes are protected from the types of abuses that have plagued other states. Unfortunately, the proposal did not win final passage, but the legislature should continue fighting for homeowners' interests.



HCC Manufacturing Center

I am very pleased that under recently adopted legislation, Housatonic Community College has been chosen as one of three locations in the state for construction of a new Regional Advanced Manufacturing Center. Its features will include new computer labs, milling and lathe machines, CNC machines, a welding center and more. The new facility will enable the college to broaden its technology programs and course offerings to provide students with the skills required to perform today's most advanced manufacturing jobs.



Calling for a Local Voice on Cell Towers

A new cell phone tower will soon be built near the Trumbull Police Station. No matter where you stand on the matter, I believe that going forward, town residents and local government should have a greater voice in the tower siting process. I voted for a bill this year that will give towns more time and information to review proposed new towers, hold public meetings and issue recommendations to the deciding state Siting Council.

Banning Illegal "Massage" Parlors

Black Rock residents drew my attention to a disturbing problem in Bridgeport—illicit "massage parlors" which serve as fronts for prostitution and human trafficking. Legislation I supported this year will give law enforcement the tools they need to shut down these illicit parlors and strengthen licensing regulations to ensure that only legitimate therapists advertise and provide massage services.

New Manufacturing Jobs in Bridgeport



Last fall I voted for bipartisan jobs legislation to help small business grow and hire new employees. I saw some of the results of that legislation in April when I toured the facilities of SolarChange in Bridgeport. The company manufactures many kinds of solar panels—including an innovative roofing system that produces both electricity and hot water. Under the Jobs Bill, SolarChange will receive a \$250,000 loan and a \$100,000 grant to expand and create 31 full-time jobs.



Your State Senator

Anthony Musto

Representing the residents of
Bridgeport, Monroe & Trumbull

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Learning about workforce needs and sharing information on our "Connecticut Made" legislation with Bob Beckerer, president of Beckson Manufacturing in Bridgeport.

Your State Senator Anthony Musto Resources

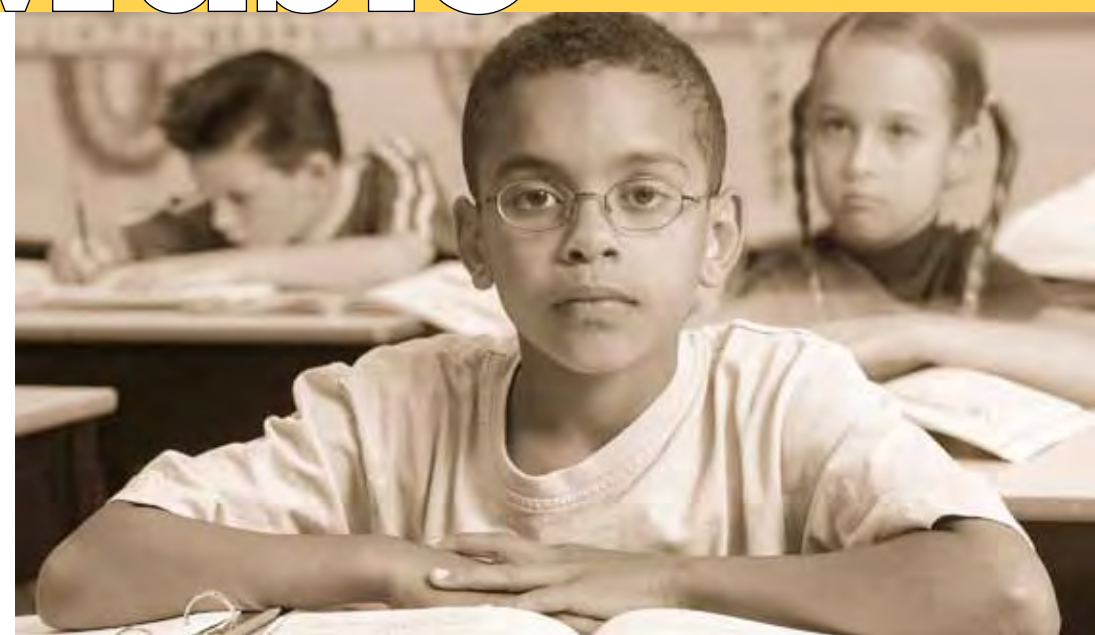
In addition to our work this session, last October we passed an historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact info that could benefit you or someone you know.

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- **STEP Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConnectiOn** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Speaking at SolarChange in Bridgeport to announce the company's successful application for funds through the state's Small Business Express Program established in the 2011 bipartisan Jobs Bill I supported. Listening are, left to right, COO and principal Peter Cummings, CEO Scott Hartzell, myself and Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch.



Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass an historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- Additional funding to school districts across the state

A COMMITMENT TO CREATING JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- A 'Connecticut Made' marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

Protecting Consumers, Fighting Price Gouging



Last year we saw some of the worst of what Mother Nature has to offer. Record-breaking snowfall and a powerful tropical storm wreaked havoc, causing downed trees, power outages and roof collapses. We came together as a state to clean up and repair homes after the storms.

In the Senate, we crafted legislation that extends protections from price-gouging to emergency lodging and weather-related services such as snow removal, flood abatement, clean-up and repairs.

The package we passed in the Senate went even further by protecting people against:

- Unnecessary collection of Social Security numbers;
- Deceptive automatic renewal language buried in the fine print of introductory offers; and,
- Telemarketers giving false or misleading identifying information.

Though not all of these bills passed in the House, they are important issues that the General Assembly should remain focused on next year.

Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't take advantage of rising prices to unfairly gouge consumers.

